

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I request a leave of absence from the House of Representatives for July 13, 2010 and the balance of the week, due to the effect Hurricane Alex and the tropical depression that quickly followed are having on my district, TX-15, in South Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE BIG SPRING
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL
CENTER FOR 60 YEARS OF SERV-
ICE

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln stated “. . . to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan . . .” It is those same words that grace the steps of the headquarters of the Veterans Administration, representing the sacred duty we owe to the men and women who wore the uniform of this great nation.

Some have worn this uniform voluntarily, others by conscription. Others made a life of service in the military their career, often passed down from one generation to the next. The United States generally and west Texas in particular have had a long and proud history of giving thanks to our veterans. Today, American's all-volunteer force is one composed of men and women willing to risk their lives in defense of freedom and liberty for America and her allies, and in return we owe to them a debt of gratitude.

As part of that gratitude, the Big Spring Veterans Affairs Medical Center serves veterans from a 53-county area in west Texas and part of New Mexico. For 60 years now, the Big Spring VAMC has been an institution helping veterans young and old recover from wounds suffered on the field of battle. Without this facility, rural veterans would be at a significant disadvantage in receiving the specialty care many of them have earned. The Big Spring VAMC is a living testament to the men and women of our armed forces.

The Big Spring VAMC provides a wide range of patient care services, including inpatient and outpatient care as well as residential rehabilitation. The hospital is currently expanding to meet the needs of more veterans with a 40-bed residential rehabilitation unit expected to be completed later this year. Through many changes, the Big Spring community has stood in strong support of the hospital and the veterans it serves. I join the community in thanking the Big Spring VAMC for 60 years of service and offer best wishes for many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF FELIX HARVEY FOR
HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Felix Harvey, a North Carolina businessman and civic leader, as he turns ninety years young on July 16, 2010.

Felix Harvey was born in Kinston, North Carolina, almost a century ago and yet has never grown old. Felix married his wife, Margaret Little Blount, in 1945 and since then has raised two beautiful daughters, Leigh and Sunny. They have seven grandchildren.

In addition to being a family man, Felix is known for his keen business-savvy that has fueled his success for the past fifty years. Felix has been a good North Carolina businessman in every sense, making a living doing right by the folks in his home state. Felix is Chairman of the Board of Harvey Enterprises and Affiliates, which engages in farming and agricultural supplies, cotton ginning, transportation, real estate, and retail petroleum distribution. In addition, he served on several other corporate boards, including the Board of the North Carolina National Bank, now Bank of America, Integon Corporation and North Carolina Natural Gas, to name a few.

More recently, Felix planted an orchard and opened a fruit stand. There is a Greek proverb that says a society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they will never sit. Felix has not just planted a tree, but has planted an entire orchard so that others could enjoy its fruit. Felix is always looking into the future and thinking about how he can expand his horizons, growing and learning every day and making North Carolina a better place to live.

Felix remains active in his community and his free time as well. He has been Vice Chairman of the Board and President of the North Carolina Global Transpark foundation since 1993 and he has had a lasting commitment to his alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. All the while, he still finds time to get outside and perfect his golf game.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing a man who reminds us that age is just a number. It is with great pride and joy that I wish Felix Harvey, a great friend to me and the state of North Carolina, a happy ninetyeth birthday. He is an example to us all in his fervor for life and reminds us to “share the fruit” with our future generations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,199,290,856,204.31.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,560,865,109,910.50 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ABRAHAM I.J.
SWANSON XII**HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, last week Cincinnati lost an iconic figure in our religious community when Bishop Abraham I.J. Swanson XII left this world. More than 65 years ago, Bishop Swanson became the founding pastor at the BibleWay Church of God in Christ. Whether preaching to his congregation or to those listening to his forty years of broadcasts on 1480 WCIN, Pastor Swanson offered words of encouragement, hope, and faith to those struggling the most. His words inspired perseverance in the face of adversity, a reflection of his own faith and his commitment to our community. Those who knew him are profoundly grateful for his service, and in his absence we continue to draw strength from his words: “Hold on to your hope, keep the faith, stand your ground until reinforcement comes; it will come in the morning.”

INTRODUCING THE SCHOOL EN-
HANCEMENT OF AMERICA'S TAL-
ENTED STUDENTS ACT**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the School Enhancement of America's Talented Students Act, a bill to create a competitive grant program for schools that are striving to combat obesity and improve nutrition in our schools.

One-third of America's youth are now overweight or obese, and it's getting worse. We need to act now as a nation to prevent not only a health crisis, but God forbid these kids be called to our national defense years from now. How prepared will we be to defend our shores? We were caught ill prepared before. We established national child nutrition programs, now it's time to keep them working. It is a fact that our Nation's schools now provide over half the calories our children consume through breakfast and lunch programs. We can feed our kids better by simply shifting the recipes our schools use to fresh vegetables and fruits and other healthier alternatives. Healthy habits formed early, last lifetimes. As families grow healthier, our country prospers. Obesity can bankrupt the health of a nation easier than the most complex far-reaching Wall Street scam. Obesity creates a complex formula of inter-related secondary deadly health risks. We are blessed that we can turn the tide.

This bill creates a competitive grant program for school districts that seek to improve the health of our students by implementing a nutrition program that provides healthier meals. The grant program would give priority to states with the highest obesity rates of at least 30